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PATENT
1152-0311PUS1



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki KATATA, et al. Conf.: 6715
Appl. No.: 10/511,762 Group: 2621
Filed: October 19, 2004 Examiner: Unassigned
For: IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE DECODING APPARATUS, RECORDING MEDIUM AND IMAGE RECORDING APPARATUS

L E T T E R

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 10, 2005

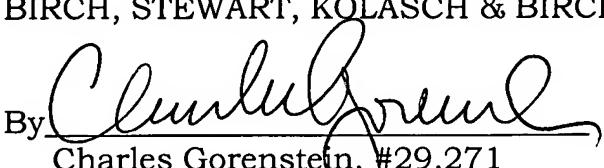
Sir:

Subsequent to the filing of the above-identified application on October 19, 2004, attached hereto is an English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER 409) that should be made of record in the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FWA3-11	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/005380	International filing date (day/month/year) 25 April 2003 (25.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 25 April 2002 (25.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N 13/02, 5/92, 7/24, H03M 7/30, G06T 3/00		
Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 10 November 2003 (10.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 04 August 2004 (04.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/005380

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:pages 1-40, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:pages 10, 13, 16, 18, 20, 25-28, as originally filedpages 17, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages 15, 19, filed with the letter of 26 April 2004 (26.04.2004) the drawings:pages 1-35, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. 1-9, 11, 12, 14, 21-14 the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP 03/05380

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>10, 13, 15-20, 25-28</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>10, 13, 15, 17-20, 25-</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>16</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>10, 13, 15-20, 25-28</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 11-113026 A (Victor Company of Japan, Ltd.), 23 April 1999

Document 2: JP 11-191895 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 13 July 1999

Document 3: JP 2002-010299 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 11 January 2002

The invention set forth in claim 16 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 2 (fig. 1, 17, 18 and 49) and document 3 (paragraph 0079). A person skilled in the art could easily use the means for selecting a synthesis method, which is disclosed in document 3, in combination with the means for recording a three-dimensional image and the means for recording each type of information within a stream, which are taught in document 2.

The inventions that are set forth in claims 10, 13, 15, 17-20 and 25-28 are not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report, and are not obvious to a person skilled in the art.